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Remarks

Claims 25-32 were pending. No claims have been amended, added or cancelled. Thus claims 25-32 are subject to continued examination.

Interview summary:

As a preliminary matter Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the telephonic interview of March 8, 2007. In accordance with the obligation to record the substance of the interview, the following points are noted.

No exhibits were shown.

Independent claim 25 was discussed.

Applicants noted that the recited feature that a portion of the fiber elements in each of the adjacent layers projects in extended relation into but not across a layer of adhesive would be recognized as inherent when needling is used and is thus supported by the specification as filed.

The Examiner indicated that art may exist which anticipates potentially inherent claimed features of the invention. Specifically, the Examiner noted US 2,970,365.

No agreement was reached or requested.

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35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

The sole rejection of Claims 25-32 is a written description rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action takes the position that the specification lacks support for the limitation that a "second portion of the fiber elements in each of said adjacent layers projects in extended relation into but not across a layer of adhesive between said adjacent layers." An examination of FIG. 1 clearly shows fibers which extend into but not across the adhesive layer. Moreover, the specification provides a description of a needling formation process which would be recognized as inherently orienting a portion of the fibers as illustrated and claimed.

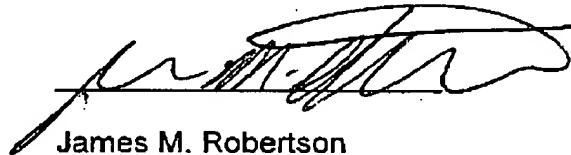
In light of the support provided by the specification, it is respectfully submitted that the written description requirement is satisfied and that the outstanding rejection should be withdrawn. Moreover, since no other rejection is currently pending, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims now stand in condition for allowance. Should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment and accompanying Remarks, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned in the hope that any such issue may be promptly and satisfactorily resolved.

In the event that additional time is required to have the papers submitted herewith for the above referenced application to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for any additional time required to make these papers timely and authorization is hereby granted to withdraw any additional fees necessary for this additional time from our Deposit Account No. 50-1424.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. M. Robertson', is written over a horizontal line.

James M. Robertson

Registration No. 36,905

(864) 583-0030 (phone)

(864) 583-0002 (FAX)